

The Root of Christianity

Introduction

Why is it that some Christians are NOT serving Christ fully and completely in their life?

- 1. The very nature and unity of the church is based upon the people who make up the church — Christians.**
- 2. Christians are the church.**
 - A. The word “church” means “called out.” It was used before Christ by the Greeks to mean any called out assembly.**
- 3. It is very important that we understand the importance of the church that Christ built and the Christians that are in it.**
- 4. This morning we’re going to look at the Christians that make up the church that Christ built.**

Christ’s Church

- 1. Jesus did not build many churches.**

Matthew 16:18 "And I also say to you that you are Peter, and on this rock **I will build My church**, and the gates of Hades shall not prevail against it.

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| A. Not a building | B. Not denominations of people |
|--------------------------|---------------------------------------|

CHART (Christ’s Church) Progress through the slide

2. **The church is built upon Christ (Matt 16:18)**
3. **Since Christ built His church — He is the head of His church.**
 - A. **Would Christ be head over something that is non-essential?**

--- **If so, wouldn't that make Christ non-essential?**

The Body of Christ — Christians

1. **Those in the church are referred to as Saints.**

1 Corinthians 14:33 For God is not the author of confusion but of peace, as in all the churches of the saints.

1 Corinthians 1:2 To the church of God which is at Corinth, to those who are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints, with all who in every place call on the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, both theirs and ours:

2. **Saints are those who are sanctified.**

- A. **What does it mean to be sanctified?**

- 1) **Set apart; made holy** — God's people are called out of sin and are set apart for God and His use.

- a. **Added to His church VOLUNTARILY!**

Galatians 3:26-27 For you are all sons of God through faith in Christ Jesus. For as many of you as were baptized into Christ have put on Christ.

CHART (Sanctified)

---- **Become "married to Christ" as Husband and Wife**

Ephesians 5:22-32

B. Therefore, it is only those that have been sanctified that make up *the* body of Christ.

1 Corinthians 12:20 But now indeed there are many members, yet one body.

The Sanctified in Christ

1. One must “count the cost” before deciding to set himself apart for Christ’s service.

Luke 14:26-33

2. Many in the Lord’s church, are not trying to be sanctified!

CHART (Individuals with problems under Christ’s head)

A. The Root of the Problem?

Mark 12:30 'And you shall *love* the Lord your God with *all your heart*, with *all your soul*, with *all your mind*, and with *all your strength*.' This is the first commandment.

3. We are only as strong as what we feed our roots!

CHART (Plant/Individual relationship)

- **Plant/leaves ---- We can tell what the plant needs!**

A. We must feed ourselves, strengthening our roots before we will be the sanctified (set apart) individuals that Christ would have us to be!

1 Peter 2:1-2 Therefore, laying aside all malice, all guile, hypocrisy, envy, and all evil speaking, as newborn babes, **desire the pure milk of the word**, that you may grow thereby,

2 Timothy 2:15 **Study to shew thyself approved unto God**, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth. (KJV)

B. Only when we FEED our roots will be rooted in Christ!
Ephesians 3:17
Colossians 2:6-7

4. Once sanctified in Christ, we must NOT look back.

Luke 9:62 "No one, having put his hand to the plow, and looking back, is fit for the kingdom of God."

Conclusion

1. The fruit of our life is a direct reflection of the root of our life.

A. Are we truly grounded and rooted in the love of Christ?

B. Jesus said:

John 14:15 If you love Me, keep My commandments.

2. If we're having trouble keeping His commandments, it's because we do not truly love Him.

3. Although we are sanctified in Christ through baptism, our actions tell whether we are nourishing our roots or not.

4. The ROOT OF CHRISTIANITY is to:

Mark 12:30love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.

Place

Date[illegible]

Richard Thetford, December 1998 – Reworked July 2025